

Amendments to the Claims

1. (previously presented): A method for breaking the viscosity of polymer gelled aqueous fluids comprising a crosslinked guar or derivatized guar polymer gel, the method comprising adding an effective amount of at least one aminocarboxylic acid to break down the gel by acting on the crosslinker and primarily directly on the polymer gel.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (original): The method of claim 1 where the polymer is a polysaccharide.

5. (original): The method of claim 1 where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), propylene-diaminetetraacetic acid (PDTA), hydroxyethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (HEDTA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), ethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA), ethylenediaminediacetic acid (H₂EDDA), dihydrate ethylenediaminediacetic acid (2H₂O EDTA), salts of these acids, and mixtures thereof.

6. (original): The method of claim 1 where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of the sodium salt, the potassium salt, and the ammonium salt of the acid.

7. (original): The method of claim 1 where the method is conducted at a temperature between about 120°F (49°C) and about 280° F (138°C).

8. (original): The method of claim 1 where in adding the aminocarboxylic acid, the amount of aminocarboxylic acid added ranges from about 0.1 to about 30.0 pptg (from about 0.01 to about 3.4 kg/m³) based on the total volume of fluid.

9. (currently amended): A method for breaking the viscosity of aqueous fluids comprising a crosslinked guar or derivatized guar polymer gel, the method comprising adding an effective amount of at least one aminocarboxylic acid to break down the gel by acting on the crosslinker and primarily directly on the polymer gel, where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), propylenediaminetetraacetic acid (PDTA), hydroxyethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (HEDTA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), ethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA), ethylenediaminediacetic acid (H₂EDDA), dihydrate ethylenediaminediacetic acid (2H₂O EDTA), salts of these acids, and mixtures thereof, and where the method is conducted at a temperature between about 120° F (49°C) and about 280° F (138°C).

10. (canceled)

11. (original): The method of claim 9 where the polymer is a polysaccharide.

12. (original): The method of claim 9 where the aminocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of the sodium salt, the potassium salt, and the ammonium salt of the acid.

13. (original): The method of claim 9 where in adding the aminocarboxylic acid, the amount of aminocarboxylic acid added ranges from about 0.1 to about 30.0 pptg (from about 0.01 to about 3.4 kg/m³) based on the total volume of fluid.

14-22. (canceled)